

**REMARKS**

In this Preliminary Amendment, claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; claims 1-12 and 14-21 are currently amended; and new claims 22-24 have been added. The amended and new claims find support in the specification as filed and in the original claims. Specially, new claim 22 is supported by and replaces original claim 13. New claims 23 and 24 find support in original claim 9. The claims have been amended to correct clerical oversights and to contain language that is in accordance with U.S. practice. No new matter has been introduced into the application by virtue of the amended and newly presented claims.

Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 14-24 are currently pending in the application.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An action progressing this application to issue is courteously urged.

Should any additional fee(s) be deemed to be properly assessable in this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such additional fee(s), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **50-0311**, Reference no. **28069-508-NATL**, Customer Number: **35437**.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of the application would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the Applicant's undersigned representative at (212) 692-6742 and is assured of full cooperation in an effort to advance the prosecution of the instant application and claims to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY  
AND POPEO, P.C.

Date: June 9, 2005

By:   
Leslie A. Serunian  
Registration No. 35,353

**Correspondence Address:**

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY  
AND POPEO, P.C.  
The Chrysler Center, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
666 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
Telephone: (212) 935-3000  
Facsimile: (212) 983-3115  
Direct Tel.: (212) 692-6742

Express Mail Label No: EV 452426381 US